



# Proclamation

*In Recognition of the*

## 25<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

**WHEREAS**, the *sakura*, or cherry blossom, is a symbol of good fortune, love and affection, or hope; and

**WHEREAS**, cherry blossom trees first came to Waimea in 1953 as a living memorial to Fred Makino, founder of Hawai'i's Japanese language newspaper, *Hawaii Hochi*; and

**WHEREAS**, cherry blossom trees are planted and propagated to beautify the community and recognize its strong ties to Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1975, Lions Club members planted numerous trees throughout Waimea to commemorate the visit of Emperor Hirohito and his wife and to honor the first Japanese immigrants who settled in Waimea; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival first began in 1994 under the direction of former County Parks and Recreation Director George Yoshida; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival showcases the Japanese tradition of *hanami* – “cherry blossom viewing party” – which celebrates the fleeting beauty of nature while heralding the arrival of spring; and

**WHEREAS**, this festival brings diversity, attracting both visitors and residents, and fosters community, business and government participation;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2018 as**

## “Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival Day”

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in celebrating Waimea's premier festival and enjoy the multi-cultural performing arts, cooking demonstrations, origami, bonsai, traditional tea ceremony, mochi pounding and craft fair.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-ninth day of January 2018.

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i